Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program

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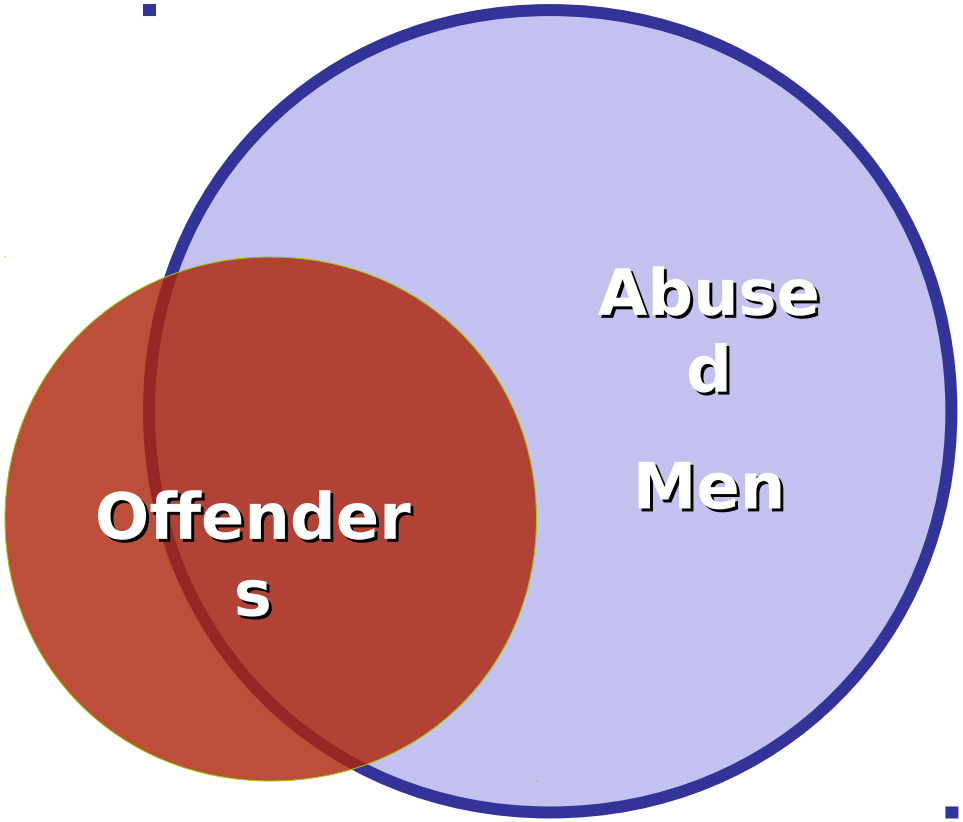
Offenders

Block 10

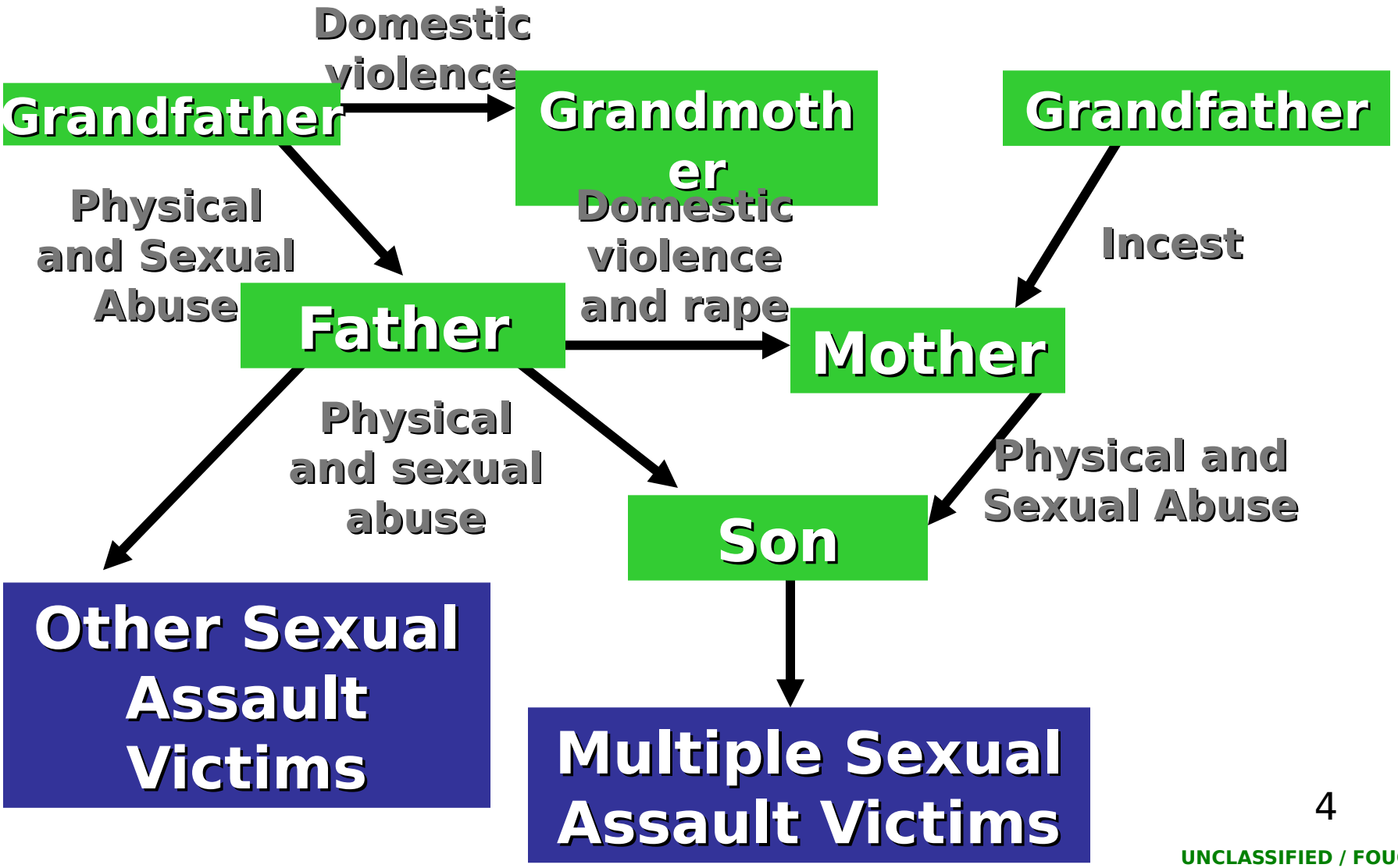
Sexual Assault Response Coordinator Training

Victims as Offenders

The Relationship between Abuse and Offending



Cycle of Violence



Stereotypes About Offenders

Non-Stranger Offender:

- "Nice Guy"
- Drank too Much
- Miscommunication
- Unpremeditated
- Won't Happen Again

Stranger Offender:

- Ski Mask
- Knife
- Blitz Attack
- Brutal Injuries
- Strangers

Relationship to Victim

- 83.3% Non-strangers:
  - 57.7% Intimate partner
  - 9.9% Relative
  - 12.7% Acquaintance
- 16.7% Strangers

2000 National Violence Against Women Survey

Import of Relationship

- Victims often do worse psychologically because they knew the offender.
- Recovery is complicated by the nature of the harm; it's from an unexpected source.

Implications of Research on Undetected Rapists

- The Typical Rapist:
  - Plans & premeditates his attacks
  - Uses multiple strategies to make victim vulnerable
  - Uses alcohol deliberately
  - Increases violence as needed

Implications of Research on Undetected Rapists

- Does not use a weapon
- Uses instrumental, not gratuitous violence
- Has access to consensual sex
- Comes from all racial & ethnic groups
- Is not mentally ill

Video:
Frank
(by the National Judicial Education Program)

Characteristics of a Sex Offender

- Hostility toward women
- Casual attitudes about sex
- Frequent sexual encounters

Characteristics of a Sex Offender

- Impulsivity (not as to offenses)
  - Immaturity, irresponsibility, lack of social conscience
- Careful planning associated with multiple offenses in undetected and convicted offender sample

Characteristics of a Sex Offender

- Deviant aggressive sexual fantasy for a subgroup of offenders
- Adversarial beliefs about relationships between men and women
- Endorse rape myths
- Hyper-masculinity

Hyper-masculinity

- Socialization rejecting:
  - Weakness
  - Vulnerability
  - Emotion
  - Acknowledgement of pain
- Glorification of:
  - Dominance over women
  - Physical power and size
  - Violence as legitimate tool of authority

Empathy

Normal:

- Someone else's emotions are noted
- Someone else's emotions are identified
- There is a resonance with the emotions of the other person

Empathy

Empathy Deficit:

- Lack of resonance
- Other person's emotions just information to be used

Offense Dynamics

- Premeditated attacks
- Isolation of the victim
  - Use of social context to assess target

Offense Dynamics

- Overcome resistance
  - Physical presence as a threat
  - Physical restraint, threats
  - Use of alcohol and/or drugs
- Sexual contact regardless of consent

Force

- Minimal use of force
  - Instrumental violence
    - Sufficient to gain victim compliance
    - Victim's level of resistance determines level of force
    - Little anger except in response to victim resistance
    - Infliction of pain not the usual motivation
    - Source of arousal may dictate use of force
      - Sadists aroused by victim's pain
  - In a study of convicted rapists 75%- 84% used minimal or no force
  - The majority use just physical presence as threat

Impact of Offender and Offense Dynamics

- Non-stranger assailant uses the "everyday" social situation to assess targets
- Mere presence is used to threaten
- Alcohol and drugs are used as weapons to incapacitate victims
- As a result:
  - Victims are not believed, or are blamed for the assault
  - Victims blame themselves and complicate healing

Evidence of M.O.

- Focus is on the offender: his past, his behavior, his credibility
- Leads to 3rd party sources critically important
- Micro-corroboration of victim's statements important to credibility

Recidivism

- By self report:
  - Abel- 129 convicted offenders reported 907 offenses against 882 victims
  - Weinrott- 37 convicted offenders reported 433 total offenses perpetrated against a mean of 11.7 victims each
  - Lisak- 76 undetected offenders reported 439 rapes

Recidivism

- With long term follow-up:
  - Prentky- 39% overall criminal re-offending (all types of crimes)
  - Quinsey- 20% sexual assault re-offending

Cross Over Offending

- Lisak: (2002)
  - 76 undetected serial rapists reported 1045 violent offenses
  - Sexual assaults other than rape= 49
  - Battery of an adult= 214
  - Child physical abuse= 66
  - Child sexual abuse= 277

Cross Over Offending

Heil: (1999)

- Using the polygraph…
- 82% of child offenders admitted to assaulting adults
- 50% of adult offenders admitted to assaulting children

Cross Over Offending

Gidycz: (2001)

- 298 men assessed twice, 9 weeks apart at initial assessment 11 reported perpetrating prior rape
- 9 weeks later, 3 had raped again and 1 had committed a sexual assault

Key Topics

- A small percentage of victims become offenders.
- Most offenders are known to the victim.
- Non-stranger offenses are extremely psychologically harmful to the victim.
- Non-stranger assailants are usually serial offenders who commit a variety of different kinds of offenses.

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- Lisak, D. and Miller, P. “Repeat Rape and Multiple Offending Among Undetected Rapists” Violence and Victims Vol. 17, No. 1, 2002.

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INTERNET REFERENCES

- NGB Site: http://www.ngb.army.mil/staff/j1/sapr/
- DoD Site: www.sapr.mil
- Army Site: www.sexualassault.army.mil
- DOJ Site: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/
- JAG Sites – Check with your JAG about any resources on JAGCNET or FLITE